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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 112 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Human rights situation in southern Lebanon and West Bekaa

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its decision 1997/265 of 22 July 1997, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Human Rights[1] containing the Commission's resolution 1997/55 of 15 April 1997 on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon and West Bekaa. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel and to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of his efforts in that regard.

2. In view of the requests formulated in paragraph 6 of the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel on 18 June 1997.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23).

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 110

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in pursuance of paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 51/81 of 12 December 1996, with a view to supplementing the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997 (E/1997/87). The response of the Secretary-General to the request contained in paragraph 14 of resolution 1997/74 of the Commission on Human Rights[1] will be circulated as an addendum to the present report.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Economic and Social Council

2. At its substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council discussed the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 1993-2003, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/146 of 23 December 1994. By decision 1997/293 of 18 April 1997, the Council endorsed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights[2] to recommend to the General Assembly the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, whose main objectives should be:

(a) To review the progress made in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly since the

adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to reappraise the obstacles to further progress in the field and ways to overcome them;

(b) To consider ways and means better to ensure the application of existing standards and the implementation of the existing instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) To increase the level of awareness about the scourge of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) To formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the activities and mechanisms of the United Nations through programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) To review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and any other factors leading to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(f) To formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) To draw up concrete recommendations for ensuring that the United Nations has the financial and other necessary resources for its action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

3. The Council also endorsed the Commission's recommendations to the General Assembly:

(a) That the world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance be convened not later than the year 2001;

(b) That when deciding on the agenda of the world conference it take into consideration, inter alia, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(c) That the world conference be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including through measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

(d) That it decide that the Commission on Human Rights should act as the preparatory committee for the world conference and that its deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice;

(e) That it request Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, the

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and other human rights mechanisms to assist the preparatory committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the conference and the preparations therefor to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General and to participate actively in the conference;

(f) That it call upon States and regional organizations to hold national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives in preparation for the world conference;

(g) That it request regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the preparatory committee, through the Secretary-General, on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Council approved the Commission's recommendation that the world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance be conducted effectively and efficiently and that its size, duration and other cost factors be determined with due regard for economy.

B. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

4. At its fifty-first session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination took note of the progress that had been made on the joint working paper on article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3] That paper was being prepared jointly by two members of the Committee, Mr. Ivan Garvalov and Mrs. Shanti Sadiq Ali, and two members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. José Bengoa and Mr. Mustafa Mehedi. The Committee expressed its appreciation particularly to Mr. Garvalov and Mrs. Sadiq Ali, who had prepared preliminary contributions for consideration by the four experts. Those efforts had significantly advanced the work of the four experts and laid the basis for the joint paper to be completed and submitted in August 1998 to both the Committee and the Subcommission.

C. Forthcoming seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 51/81, in which the Assembly recommended that a seminar be organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is planning a seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions

of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

6. The purpose of the seminar, which will take place at Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, is to assess the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The tentative agenda for the seminar includes the following topics:

(a) Racism and racial discrimination on the Internet;

(b) Technical aspects of screening racist propaganda on the Internet:

(i) National measures;

(ii) International measures;

(c) Prohibition of racist propaganda on the Internet - juridical aspects:

(i) National measures;

(ii) International measures;

(d) Elements for an eventual code of conduct and good practice for displaying material on the Internet;

(e) Recommendations.

D. Status of the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

7. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 51/81, the General Assembly strongly appealed to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to that end requested the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions.

8. The Trust Fund is a continuation of that established in 1973 by the General Assembly in application of paragraph 17 of the Programme of Action for the First Decade (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) and re-established in 1983 within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (Assembly resolution 38/14, annex).

9. The contributions made by the international community to the Fund have remained below the levels hoped for. Very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 were therefore carried out. In the light of the resources available, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will strive to the utmost to ensure that the forthcoming activities are carried out. The

current status of contributions to the Fund is reflected in the annex to the present report.

Notes

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 3 (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., resolution 1997/74.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/52/18), para. 669.

Annex

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Contributions received from Governments since the establishment of the Trust Fund, as at 30 September 1997*

(United States dollars)

Country	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Austria	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	5 000	-	-	-	-	
Bahamas	-	-	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bangladesh	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	448.85	-	-	-	-	
Belgium	1 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cameroon	-	2 711	-	-	906	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Canada	-	2 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
China	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Denmark	8 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 993	2 002	-	-	-	
Finland	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Germany	4 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
India	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	2 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Italy	-	4 000	-	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Jamaica	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Japan	-	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	-	10 000	10 000	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	-	-	-	10 000	-	-	-	6 000	-	-	-	
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 934	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	-	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 000			
Norway	10 000	10 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73 332	78 762	78 762	

* Based on information available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Country	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	-	3 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	
Spain	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	760	-	-	-	-				
Sweden	5 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7 997	-	
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	1 000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 000	-				
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	-	2 000	-	-	2 000	-	-	-	
Total	34 500	34 711	37 500	20 500	27 666	12 000	15 934	24 441.85	20 002	75 332	96 759	88 762	

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Agenda items 31, 33, 36, 37, 43, 47 and 74
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Final Communique and annexes of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have these documents circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under agenda items 31, 33, 36, 37, 43, 47 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Makarim WIBISONO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

FINAL COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE OIC ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HELD AT THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK ON 1 JUMADA II, 1418H (2 OCTOBER 1997) *

The OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held on 1 Jumada II, 1418H corresponding to 2 October 1997 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairman of the Twenty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

2. Their Excellencies Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations and Dr. Esmat Abdel Majid, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States attended the meeting for the first time. In their statements to the meeting, the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States emphasized the importance of the partnership between the OIC and their respective Organizations. They expressed appreciation for the excellent cooperation that exist between the OIC,UN and the League of Arab States in promoting peace and security and economic and social development.

3. **The Meeting** noted with appreciation the Reports of the Secretary General on the items of the Agenda and adopted the following decisions:

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO:

4. **The Meeting** unanimously admitted the Republic of Togo as a full member of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

QUESTION OF PALESTINE, AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF AND THE MIDDLE EAST:

5. **The Meeting** approved the Report of the Committee of Six on Palestine (Annex-I) held at the United Nations Headquarters on 25 Jumada I, 1418H (26 September 1997) and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

6. **The Meeting** reaffirmed support of the peace process and backing of the position of the PLO in its negotiations with Israel for establishing its authority in the Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and called on the international community to compel Israel to halt colonization works and any measures aimed at changing the political, geographical, and demographic status in al-Quds Al-Sharif, to adhere to the implementation of all the agreements signed with the PLO, and to resume

* The present text has been reproduced as received, in the languages of submission only.

negotiations on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks from the point at which they were suspended, and in accordance with the foundations of the peace process in Madrid.

7. **The Meeting** called for the convening, by the end of this year,of a meeting of the high signatories to the Fourth Geneva Covention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian persons in Time of War, to take the necessary enforcement measures for ensuring implementation of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

8. **The Meeting** reaffirmed that the accreditation of Israel's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, do not apply to the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and called for ensuring the consistency of the Palestinian participation in the United Nations with the new realities especially following the establishment of the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian territories.

THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:

9. **The Meeting** approved the Report of the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex-II) which met at the United Nations in New York on 25 Jumada I, 1418H (26 September1997) and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

10. **The Meeting** welcomed the participation in the meeting for the first time of a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina representing all the three ethnic communities of the country. It reiterated the commitment of the OIC Member States to preserve the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders. It emphasized the importance of the full, effective and consistent implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement, notably prosecution of indicted war criminals, return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes, freedom of movement and media, effective functioning of the State institutions and enforcement of the results of the recently held municipal elections.

11. **The Meeting** decided that the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina meet in New York to coordinate the position of the OIC on the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement before the Ministerial Meeting of the Security Council to be held in October 1997 on the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR DISPUTE:

12. **The Meeting** approved the Report of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex-III) which met at the United Nations in New York on 28 Jumada I, 1418H (29 September 1997) and endorsed the recommendations contained therein. The True Representatives of the Kashmiri people addressed the Meeting and presented a Memorandum on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute (Annex-IV).

13. **The Meeting** reaffirmed the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination as stipulated in the relevant United Nations resolutions. It condemned the continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and urged the international community to take effective steps to safeguarding the human rights of the Kashmiris. It welcomed the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to initiate a dialogue with India to seek a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

14. **The Meeting** adopted the Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex-V). It recommended that the Chairman of the Co-ordination Meeting request the President of the Security Council and the UN Secretary General to circulate the Declaration as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items.

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN:

15. **The Meeting** approved the Report of the Meeting of the OIC Ad-hoc Committee on Afghanistan (Annex-VI) which met at the United Nations in New York on 28 Jumada I, 1418H (29 September 1997) and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

16. **The Meeting** expressed deep concern over the continuation of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. It urged the Afghan parties to renounce the use of force to settle their political differences and work together to promote peace and national reconciliation in the country as there cannot be a military solution to the crisis in Afghanistan. It emphasized the need for an intra-Afghan dialogue to address all issues relating to the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan including the formation of a broad-based government.In this regard it reaffirmed the importance of preserving the unity,independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and underlined the need to end all outside interference in Afghanistan.

17. **The Meeting** welcomed the role of the OIC Secretary General to strengthen the process of consultation and coordination of efforts between the OIC and the UN to promote a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA:

18. **The Meeting** reaffirmed its commitment to the restoration of the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Somalia. It reiterated its commitment to the promotion of peace and national reconciliation in Somalia and urged all Somali factions to cease armed hostilities and work together towards a comprehensive political settlement for the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia.

THE AGGRESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN:

19. **The Meeting** condemned the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azeri territories.It reaffirmed the principle of inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force and called for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers.

CONSEQUENCES OF IRAQI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE STATE OF KUWAIT AND THE NECESSITY FOR IRAQ TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS:

20. **The Meeting** called upon Iraq to pursue efforts towards the fulfillment of its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and for the establishment of security, peace and stability in the region. It called on Iraq to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Tripartite Committee in Geneva for the urgent release of prisoners and detainees from among Kuwaiti military troops and civilians so as to put a quick end to this issue.

21. **The Meeting** reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq and welcomed, in this respect, the agreement reached by the Secretary General of the UN with Iraq in implementing Security Council Resolution No. 986 (1995) and considered it a step for alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people.

THE CRISIS BETWEEN THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE, ON THE OTHER:

22. **The Meeting** reaffirmed the solidarity of Member States with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and renewed its appreciation of the flexibility shown by Libya for solving the dispute. It called on the other parties concerned to cooperate in solving the problem and denounced the continuation of sanctions in spite of the efforts and initiatives of regional and international organisations. It declared in this regard its support of the proposal made in the Declaration of the Thirty-third Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Organization of African Unity at Harare in June 1997, which was adopted in cooperation with the League of Arab States and called on the Security Council to endorse one of the three alternatives stated in the said proposal with a view to reaching a final, just and peaceful solution to the problem and ending the suffering of the Libyan Arab people.

QUESTION OF TURKISH MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF CYPRUS:

23. **The Meeting** expressed its solidarity and support for the just cause of the Turkish Muslim community of Cyprus and reaffirmed all previous OIC resolutions and declarations on Cyprus. It called for a just political settlement by respecting the legitimate aspirations of the Turkish Cypriot people and emphasized, in this regard, the key importance of respecting the principle of equal political status in the attainment of a freely negotiated and mutually acceptable solution.

SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN:

24. **The Meeting** reiterated the support of the OIC to the efforts of the UN for restoring peace and stability in Tajikistan. In this regard, it welcomed the signing by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition of the General Peace Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan in Moscow on 27 June 1997. It noted with satisfaction that the OIC Secretary General had signed the Protocol on Guarantees to support the efforts of the international community for the implementation of the agreements reached in the course of the UN-sponsored inter-Tajik talks.

U.N. REFORM INCLUDING THE EXPANSION AND REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL:

25. **The Meeting** adopted a Declaration on "UN Reform including the Expansion and Reform of the Security Council" (Annex-VII), in which it decided to establish an open-ended Contact Group on UN Reforms and Security Council Expansion at the UN Headquarters in New York.

CURRENT DIFFICULT SITUATION OF THE ORGANISATION AND MEASURES TO EFFECT O.I.C. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM AND FINANCIAL REDRESS:

26. **The Meeting** expressed its profound appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, the Secretary of the OIC, for the able, dynamic and sagacious manner in which he is conducting the work of the Organisation. It lauded the initiative of the Secretary General to introduce administrative and financial reforms in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the Organisation. In this regard, it welcomed the proposal by the Kingdom of Morocco to host a Ministerial Committee meeting and recommended that the Committee examine the reform proposals of the Secretary General and submit a report thereon to the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997, for consideration and decision.

COORDINATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES:

27. **The Meeting** welcomed the efforts undertaken by the OIC Member States in New York and Geneva to promote greater coordination between the OIC Member States and called upon Member States to closely concert their efforts on regular basis on all issues of interest to them, in particular, during the Fifty-Second Session of the UN General Assembly, with a view to seeking the adoption of appropriate resolutions on political, economic, social, humanitarian and administrative issues.

New York: 1 Jumada II, 1418H
(02 October 1997)

Annex I

**REPORT OF THE
SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(UNITED NATIONS - NEW YORK)
1 JUMADA II, 1418H
(2 OCTOBER 1997)**

The OIC Six-Member Committee on Palestine held a meeting at the U.N. Headquarters in New York, on Friday 25 Jumada I, 1418H (26 September 1997) under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, OIC Secretary General.

2. The meeting was attended by Their Excellencies the Ministers and representatives of the following States:-

- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Republic of Senegal
- Republic of Guinea
- State of Palestine
- Malaysia.

3. H.E. Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, OIC Secretary General, opened the meeting with a statement in which he reviewed the latest developments of the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the obstacles hindering the peace process in the Middle East as a result of the intransigence of the Israeli Government and its refusal to implement the agreements signed with the Palestinian side and to adhere to the principles underlying the peace process. The Secretary General reaffirmed the constant position of the OIC in support of the Palestinian people and their just cause.

4. Their Excellencies the Ministers and representatives of the Member States on the Committee closely reviewed the situation in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, as well as the critical stage through which the peace-process in the region is going as a result of Israel's persistence in its colonialist and expansionist policies in the city of Al-Quds and the Palestinian territories, its terrorist practices against the Palestinian people, and its failure to abide by the fundamental principles of the peace-process and the agreements signed within its framework, a policy which violates the resolutions of international legality and threatens to undermine the peace-process.

5. The members of the Committee commended the report of His Excellency the United Nations Secretary General No. A/ES/-10/6 S/1997/494 issued on 26 June 1997

under the resolution of the Tenth Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on the Israeli illegal measures in occupied Al-Quds and the rest of the Palestinian territory.

6. The Committee decided to submit the following recommendations to the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs:

a - To continue Member States' support of the PLO and their backing of its position in the negotiations with Israel aimed at establishing the PLO sovereignty over all the Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif considering that these territories constitute an integral geographic unit, and fulfilling the inalienable and imprescriptible national rights of the Palestinian people, including their rights of return, self-determination and establishment of their own independent State on national soil with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

b - To support the peace process in the Middle East and the implementation of the agreements signed in its framework between the concerned parties as well as all the commitments and pledges made on the basis of the principles underlying the initiation of the peace process in Madrid, particularly the principle of "land for peace" and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and primarily resolutions 242, 338 and 425 of the Security Council which call on Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Lebanese territories, and to fulfill the inalienable and imprescriptible national rights of the Palestinian people.

c - To affirm that Al-Quds Al-Sharif forms an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and is subject to the same provisions as the rest of the occupied territories in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the U.N. General Assembly. To make every effort to stop all the measures and practices being carried out by the Israeli occupying authorities in the city in order to change its geographic and demographic status as well as the violation of the Islamic and Christian shrines there which are aimed at judaizing the holy city. To call for concerted efforts to ensure the return of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Palestinian sovereignty as the capital of the State of Palestine for the sake of peace and security in the region.

d - To condemn Israel's persistence in its expansionist colonization policy in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the other occupied Palestinian and Arab territories; to consider this policy as contrary to all international resolutions including Security Council resolution 465, to the principles of international law which consider all the settlements established or to be established by Israel as null and void, and to the agreements signed between the Palestinian and the Israeli parties, a policy which constitutes a real and serious threat to the entire peace process; and to call on the international community and, in particular,

the two co-sponsors of the Peace Conference and the States of the European Union to compel Israel to stop all settlements activities.

e - To call on Israel to immediately stop all settlements works in the city of Al-Quds particularly the new settlement on Jabal Abu Ghunaim and any other measures aimed at changing the political, geographical, juridical, historical and demographic status of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; to adhere to the implementation of all the agreements concluded with the PLO in the framework of the peace process; and to resume the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks from the point where they were suspended and on the basis of the principles agreed upon at the Madrid Conference.

f - To request the Security Council to revive the International Supervision and Control Committee in order to prevent settlement in Al-Quds and the other occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

g- To affirm that Israel's failure to abide by the principles and foundations of the peace process, renunciation of the commitments, pledges and agreements arrived at within the framework of this process, procrastination in implementing them or action to evade them, could well lead to a setback in the peace process, whose consequences would be borne by the Israeli government.

h - To condemn the bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives which provides for the recognition of Al-Quds as the unified capital of Israel and the transfer of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Al-Quds, and to consider it as a grave provocation of the feelings of all Muslims and believers in the world, a blatant violation of the principles of international legality and the stand of the international community, and a contradiction with the role of the United States of America as sponsor of the peace process, besides being a move which encourages Israel to pursue its aggressive expansionist policy. To invite the U.S. Administration to abide by Security Council resolution 478.

i - To make every effort in the United Nations and other international institutions and fora to induce Israel to release the detainees, return the deportees, put an end to the method of collective punishment, stop the confiscation of land and property and the demolition of houses, lift the economic blockade imposed on the Palestinian areas; desist from withdrawing the identity cards of the Al-Quds inhabitants; halt the excavations around the Holy Al-Quds Enclosure and refrain from any acts that may endanger life and the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif. To call for a more effective participation of the United Nations in promoting the success of the Middle East peace process; and to emphasize the continued and constant responsibility of the United Nations towards the Palestine question until a just and comprehensive settlement is reached encompassing all aspects of the problem and guaranteeing the end of occupation and the exercise of the inalienable and imprescriptible national rights of the Palestinian people.

j - To urge the Islamic States which have initiated steps towards establishing relations with Israel in the framework of the peace process to reconsider their relations with Israel, including the closure of their missions and offices, until Israel complies with United Nations resolutions and implements the agreements, pledges and commitments reached by the concerned parties in the peace process, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Madrid Conference, the Oslo Agreement, and the other accords concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

k- To urge the convening of a special meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Conference of 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, before the end of this year, to take the necessary enforcement measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

l- To call on the international community and the Security Council to force Israel to comply with the U.N. resolutions particularly resolution 487 (1981) of the Security Council; to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and implement the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency calling for the submission of all the Israeli nuclear facilities to the Comprehensive Safeguards System of the Agency; and to declare its renunciation of nuclear armament and submit a full statement of its stockpile of nuclear weapons and materials to both the Security Council and the International Nuclear Energy Agency, considering that these steps are essential for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and particularly nuclear weapons in the Middle East, a fundamental factor for the establishment of comprehensive and just peace in the region.

m- To ensure that the accreditation of Israel's delegation to the U.N. General Assembly shall not apply to the representation of the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and to urge that the Palestinian participation in the United Nations be consistent with the new realities particularly the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in the Palestinian territories.

n - To emphasize the continued responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for carrying out the tasks assigned to it for the benefit of the Palestinian people wherever they may be by virtue of the relevant resolution of the U.N. General Assembly; and to invite the Member States to call on the U.N. Secretary General to ensure that the Committee on Reconciliation, in cooperation with UNRWA and the concerned countries, shall take a census of the Palestinian refugees and their property, and prepare a comprehensive design for solving their problems on the basis of their right of return to their homeland Palestine pursuant to the international resolution No.194.

o - To coordinate the positions of Member States so as to preserve the principled stand of the OIC in respect of all the resolutions on the

question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, which are submitted for discussion during the current session of the U.N. General Assembly.

7. The Committee is submitting the present report to the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration and appropriate decision.

New York, 26 September 1997.

Annex II

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF THE
OIC CONTACT GROUP ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
TO THE
ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK)
1 JUMADA II, 1418H
(2 OCTOBER 1997)

1. The Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina met at the United Nations in New York on 25 Jumada I, 1418H (26 September1997) to review the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr.Ahmed Snoussi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, and attended by the representatives of Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Secretary General of the OIC.

3. The Contact Group welcomed the participation in the meeting for the first time of a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina comprising the Minister of Foreign Affairs and two Deputy Ministers representing all the three ethnic communities of the country.

4. The Contact Group reaffirmed all previous resolutions and declarations adopted by the OIC on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the Sarajevo Declaration of Friendship and Partnership adopted by the Enlarged Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 10 April, 1996.

5. The Contact Group reiterated the commitment of the OIC Member States to preserve the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders and fully supported the establishment of a sovereign, democratic and multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

6. The Contact Group emphasized the importance of accelerating the process towards the full,effective and consistent implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. In this context, it noted with satisfaction the Political Declaration adopted by the Ministerial meeting of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council in Sintra on 30 May 1997 and underscored the importance of fulfilling the commitments contained in the Sintra Declaration.

7. The Contact Group stressed the vital importance of ensuring freedom of movement throughout the country, free media, the return of refugees and displaced

persons to their homes of origin under safe and secure conditions, the effective functioning of the common state institutions and enforcement of the results of the municipal elections held on 13 and 14 September 1997 for the peaceful and democratic reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina..

8. The Contact Group emphasized the crucial role of the International Tribunal in promoting the process of peace, justice and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region.In this context, it expressed grave concern over the failure to hand over indicted war criminals to the Tribunal and urged the international community to take resolute action for the prosecution of indicted war criminals.

9. The Contact Group underlined the role of economic revitalization in the consolidation of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and stressed the urgent need of speeding up the pledged financial assistance for the reconstruction programme including funds for housing to accommodate returning refugees and displaced persons.

10. The Contact Group noted with satisfaction the assistance being extended by OIC member states and institutions in providing resources for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It emphasized the importance of increasing cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in different fields by promoting bilateral programmes of assistance. It also expressed satisfaction over the useful role played by the Assistance Mobilization Group and institutions of the OIC in mobilizing assistance for the priority projects identified by the Bosnian authorities.

11. The Contact Group reiterated support for the "Equip and Train" programme and stressed that it was of special importance in promoting a credible and stable military balance in the region.

12. The Contact Group urged the international community to accelerate the process of the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and called for the removal of all impediments in achieving a peaceful, unified and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13. The Contact Group decided that a meeting of the Group be held in New York to coordinate the position of the OIC on the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement before the Ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the issue of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be held in October 1997.

14. The Contact Group submits this report to the Annual Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration and appropriate decision.

New York, 26 September 1997.

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Annex III

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK) 1 JUMADA II, 1418H (2 OCTOBER 1997)

1. The Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met at the Ministerial level at the United Nations, New York on 28 Jumada I, 1418H (29 September 1997) to review the situation in the Indian held Jammu and Kashmir and its implications for regional peace and security.

2. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed Snoussi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, and attended by the representatives of the Republic of Niger, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, Republic of Turkey and the Secretary General of the OIC.

3. The True Representatives of the Kashmiri people addressed the Contact Group and presented a Memorandum on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

4. The Contact Group reaffirmed all OIC Summit and Ministerial resolutions and declarations on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in particular the Special Declarations on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, in December, 1994 and the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 23 March 1997.

5. The Contact Group reaffirmed the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination as stipulated in the relevant United Nations resolutions.

6. The Contact Group expressed deep concern at the Indian violence against the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed its solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir.

7. The Contact Group condemned the continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and called upon the Member States to take all necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith these violations.

8. The Contact Group reaffirmed that any political process or elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir through a UN supervised plebiscite as is provided in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

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9. The Contact Group called for a political settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of the United Nations resolutions. In this context, it appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to resume the process of dialogue with India to seek a peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. It urged the Government of India to respond positively by engaging in a substantive and purposeful dialogue to settle all outstanding issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

10. The Contact Group took note of the Memorandum on Jammu and Kashmir dispute (Annex - I) presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people.

11. The Contact Group decided to recommend to the Coordination Meeting the adoption of the attached Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir (Annex - II).

12. The Contact Group recommended that Member States urge the Security Council to prevail upon India to seek a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on the basis of Security Council resolutions.

13. The Contact Group recommended that the Chairman of the Co-ordination Meeting request the President of the Security Council and the UN Secretary General to circulate the Declaration as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly under the relevant agenda items.

14. The Contact Group further recommended that Member States co-ordinate their efforts during the current session of the UN General Assembly to promote the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

15. The Contact Group submits this report to the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration and appropriate decision.

Annex IV

Memorandum Presented by True Representatives of the Kashmiri People to the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir at its Meeting held in New York on 29 September 1997

We the Representatives of oppressed Kashmiri people:

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and also United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January, 1949 upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

Welcoming the historic Special Declaration of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference on Jammu and Kashmir adopted on 25 March, 1997,

Expressing deep gratitude to the OIC and its Member States for their unequivocal support for Kashmiris right of self-determination and for their condemnation of the repression and massive human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir,

Appreciating commitment of the OIC and its Member States to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and their support to the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination,

Expressing satisfaction that the voice of the True Representatives of Kashmiri people has been heard with sympathy and understanding by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences,

Affirming that any agreement on Jammu and Kashmir, should be on the sole basis of the aspirations of the Kashmiri people as provided by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Deeply concerned over exacerbation of tension and incidents of firing between Indian and Pakistani troops along the Cease-Fire Line in Jammu and Kashmir entailing considerable loss of civilian life,

Endorsing and supporting the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue by all available means, including through a substantive and meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan,

Condemn the serious crimes and inhuman atrocities, massacres, extra-judicial killings, custodial deaths, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, burning of houses, villages and townships, destruction and desecration of holy places and use of rape as an instrument of suppression by the Indian government through its military and para-military personnel, renegades and mercenaries which have claimed more than 60,000 innocent lives in Jammu and Kashmir during the last eight years.

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Condemn the escalation of incidents of mal-treatment of Kashmiri women, particularly shaving of heads of nine Kashmiri women in Sopore and Beerwah village of Badgham during September, 1997 by the personnel of the Indian army,

Also Condemn the killing of eleven people, including six women and three children and injuring of fourteen by the Indian Border Security Force in mortar shelling of village Arin in Kashmir on 18 September, 1997,

Expressing alarm over the intensified campaign of harrassement, intimidation and persecution, including fabricated FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulations Act) violation cases and physical attacks against the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference to silence every voice opposing the immoral, illegal and unconstitutional occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India,

Resolve that:

(a) The people of Jammu and Kashmir shall continue their struggle for the realisation of their right to self-determination as promised to them by the international community through the United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(b) The will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir expressed through a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the UN constitutes the sole and primary basis for the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute;

Call on the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to:

(a) Stress upon the Indian government to desist from genocidal repression that tantamounts to ethnic cleansing in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) Demand that India withdraw its army of occupation from Jammu and Kashmir, fulfill its promise of holding a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir under UN auspices in accordance with the United Nations Commission on India and Pakistan resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949;

(c) Request the UN Secretary General to initiate a process of mediation to pave the way for holding of a free and impartial plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as provided in the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council;

(d) Request the UN Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir and to send a goodwill mission to India, Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate the resolution of the conflict;

(e) Request the United Nations Security Council to expand the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan and also expand its mandate to monitor human

rights situation in Indian held Kashmir;

(f) Request the United Nations Secretary General to issue an addendum to his Report on the Work of the Organisation of 1997 to indicate clearly that the function of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan is to monitor the Cease-Fire in Jammu and Kashmir;

(g) Impress upon the United Nations Human Rights Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Jammu and Kashmir and to mandate the Special Rapporteur on torture, extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, violence against women and religious intolerance to focus on the massive human rights abuses in Indian held Kashmir;

(h) Urge the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to designate Kashmiri people as "persons of concern" or internal refugees so that they could receive humanitarian assistance from the United Nations;

(i) Request the OIC Secretary General to renew to the Government of India the offer of sending a good offices mission to Jammu and Kashmir;

(j) Urge the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to renew to the government of India its offer of sending its fact finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir;

(k) Call upon the United Nations to declare the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Kashmiri Human Rights activists "Internationally Protected Persons";

(l) Impress upon the United Nations to guarantee and protect the right of travel of Kashmiri people and the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference;

(m) Support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in seeking a peaceful solution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute, keeping in view the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, through all possible means, including a substantive, meaningful and sustained dialogue with the Indian government;

Note with regret that India has persisted in its intransigent position on Jammu and Kashmir during the latest round of talks between Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan;

Appeal to all peace loving people and the nations of the world to help and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for realization of their right to self-determination as promised to them under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

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ANNEX V

DECLARATION ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held at the United Nations in New York on 1 Jumada II, 1418H (2 October 1997),

Recalling all OIC resolutions as well as Security Council resolutions pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir;

Seriously concerned over the intensification of repression and continued violations of the human rights of Kashmiri people including the denial of their inalienable right to self-determination;

Noting the Memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people;

1- Reaffirms all OIC Summit and Ministerial resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

2- Calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

3- Urges the international community to take effective steps for safeguarding the human rights of the Kashmiris including their right to self-determination.

4- Supports the ongoing efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue through all possible means including substantive bilateral talks with India.

Annex VI

REPORT OF THE
OIC AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON AFGHANISTAN
TO THE
ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK)
1 JUMADA II, 1418H
2 OCTOBER 1997

The OIC Ad-hoc Committee on Afghanistan met at the United Nations in New York on 28 Jumada I, 1418H (29 September 1997) to review the situation in Afghanistan.

2. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Azeddine LARAKI, Secretary General of the OIC and attended by the Representatives of the Republic of Guinea, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Tunisia.

3. The Committee reviewed the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and expressed deep concern over the continuation of the armed conflict in Afghanistan.

4. The Committee noted with serious concern that efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan have not so far yielded positive results and that the continued fighting had caused immense loss of life and destruction in the country.

5. The Committee urged the Afghan parties to renounce the use of force to settle their political differences and work together to promote national reconciliation and rapprochement in the country as there cannot be a military solution to the crisis in Afghanistan.

6. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of preserving the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

7. The Committee underlined the need to end all outside interference in Afghanistan.

8. The Committee reaffirmed the commitment of the OIC to promote peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan and called on the leaders of the Afghan parties to respond positively to the appeal of the OIC Secretary General to immediately cease all armed hostilities and engage in an intra-Afghan dialogue to address all issues relating to the establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan including the formation of a broad-based government that will represent all the Afghan people and thus permit the refugees and displaced persons to return to their country.

9. The Committee noted with appreciation OIC's ongoing cooperation with the United Nations in promoting a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan and welcomed the role of the OIC Secretary General to strengthen the process of consultation and coordination of peace efforts between the OIC and the UN.

10. The Committee expressed grave concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. It urged the international community to speed up the delivery of relief assistance for the suffering Afghan people.

11. The Committee submits this report to the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for consideration and appropriate decision.

Annex VII

DECLARATION ON U.N. REFORM INCLUDING THE EXPANSION AND REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We, the Foreign Ministers of the States Members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, meeting at the United Nations, New York, on 2 October 1997,

Affirming the importance of the ongoing processes of UN reforms, including the reform of the Security Council;

Recognizing that the centrality and sanctity of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter needs to be preserved in any reconfiguration of the UN system;

Reiterating the urgent need for the reform and democratization of the Security Council, in order to reflect the current political realities in the international relations, and more importantly to address the need for the enhanced representation of the developing countries and the need to significantly improve the working methods and procedures of the Security Council for enhanced transparency in its decision-making process;

Bearing in mind the Declaration adopted by the XII NAM Ministerial Conference in New Delhi, April 1997 as updated by the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the 52nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 25 September 1997;

Recalling the paragraphs relating to the reform of the Security Council in the Declaration adopted by the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at their meeting in Harare, June 1997;

Desirous of contributing actiely and constructively to these processes, taking into account, among others, the following:

(1) United Nations reforms must preserve the sanctity of its Charter as well as contribute to realization of greater democratization of the UN, strengthening its peace-keeping function, effective realization of the

principle of collective security and restoration of the primacy of the United Nations role in developmental issues.

(2) Effors at restructuring the Security Council should not be subjected to any imposed time-frame. While recognising the importance to treating this issue as a matter of urgent attention, no effort should be made to decide this issue before general agreement is reached.

(3) To faithfully comply with the provisions of Chapter XVIII in particular Article 108 of the UN Charter with respect to any resolutions with Charter amendment implications.

(4) Any reform of the Security Council must bring about an enlargement of its membership and equal importance should be given to the improvement of the working methods of the Security Council particularly the curtailments of the use of veto with a view to its eventual elimination.

(5) The OIC member states have a direct and vital interest in determining the outcome of Security Council reform and expansion. They are prepared to engage actively in the on-going discussions and negotiations on this issue with a view to bringing it to an early conclusion.

(6) For this purpose we have decided to establish an Open-ended Contact Group on U.N. Reforms and Security Council Expansion at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.